

DDI-2571-63/6

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21 May 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with General Quinn on Soviet Ground Force Estimates

1. Today I talked with General Quinn (General Carroll being absent) about the joint DIA/CIA project of reviewing estimates of Soviet ground force strength in the light of the exchange of letters between Secretary McNamara and the DCI. I explained that I was a little concerned about the rate of progress at the working level and was sending a letter to General Carroll today outlining the background of the project, our proposed terms of reference for the study needed, and a few suggestions as to operating procedure. I explained to General Quinn that it was my impression that there was a good bit of defensive sparring going on at the working level but I hoped we could get ahead with the effort to cast new light on the Soviet strength estimates by viewing the conventional order of battle data sources in the context of our costing factors for Soviet military equipment. I said that I did not think the intelligence community should be defensive of our past estimates but act as if we welcomed an opportunity to examine the possibility of new methods and procedures. General Quinn seemed to feel that in a sense this was a question of CIA inspecting the DIA data as an agent of the Secretary of Defense, but I assured him that we considered this a joint intelligence project in which we hoped to cooperate with DIA for the common objective of reaching a sound and realistic estimate as our data permitted.

2. General Quinn said that he would make a note of our conversation and leave it for General Carroll to study in connection with my letter. He agreed with me that it would probably be profitable for General Carroll and me to get together sometime next week for a discussion of the basic approach so as to get the project off the ground without any hard feelings at the working level.

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Deputy Director (Intelligence)

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